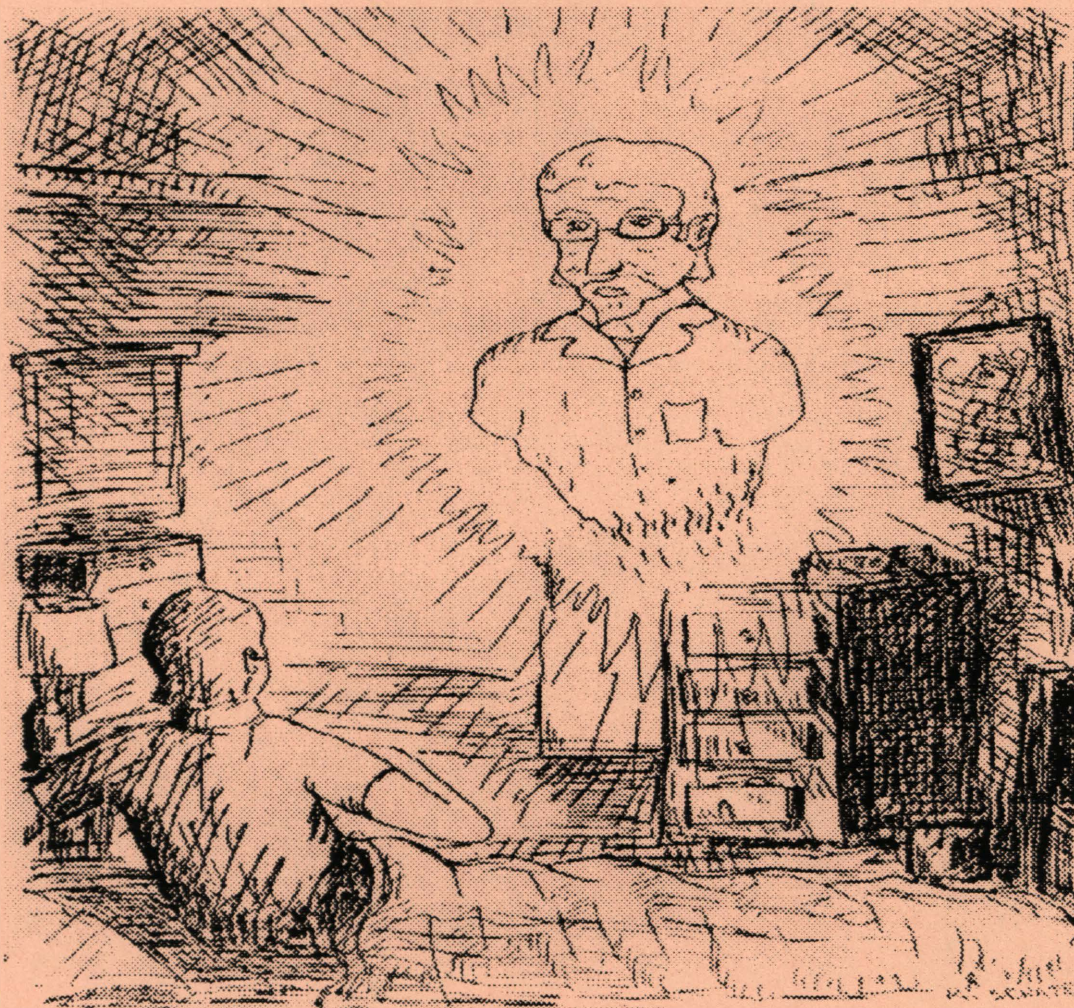
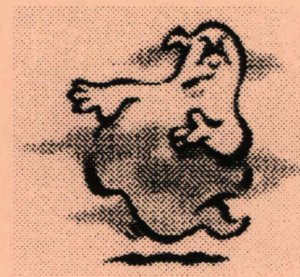


Ghost Trackers Newsletter

The Official Paranormal Publication of the Ghost Research Society



Volume 16
Number 2



June 1997

Ghost Trackers Newsletter

The Ghost Trackers Newsletter is the official paranormal publication of the Ghost Research Society. The GRS was founded in 1978 by Martin V. Riccardo and this publication soon followed in September of 1982. It is published and edited by Dale D. Kaczmarek, President and is put out in February, June and October.

The **Ghost Research Society** is a membership organization devoted to collecting, analyzing and researching all forms of the paranormal with an emphasis on ghosts, hauntings, poltergeists and life after death. Different memberships are available for those wishing to become more actively involved. We are also looking for officers, State Coordinators, Field Investigators and Area Research Directors for various states and countries.

Regular memberships are \$20.00 per year and include three issues of the Ghost Trackers Newsletter, GRS button, membership card, discounts to GRS sponsored events and tours, FREE photo analysis service and discounts on new and used books with FREE finder service available. Send wants! **Sustaining Memberships** are \$25.00 and include the above and the opportunity of helping with ghost research and attending field excursions (Midwest members only and subject to interview) at least twice a year. **Contributing Memberships** are \$30.00 and besides the above receive a free newspaper clipping service for your particular state (or country) sent on an irregular basis with your subscription. Multi-year, Patron and Lifetime Memberships are also available. If interested in those, please request further information.

Back issues of most newsletters are available for \$5.00 per issue or any three for \$13.00 for members only. Cost for non-members is \$6.00 per issue or any three for \$16.00. Non-members must also include postal charges as follows: \$1.00 for the first issue ordered and \$.75 for each additional issue. All back issues are shipped via first-class mail. Write for FREE back issue list!

The GRS is always on the lookout for photographs, newspaper clippings, articles, personal encounters or simply interesting anecdotes for publication. You will always receive full credit for anything published and that issue free of charge. All articles and stories become the property of the GRS and cannot be reprinted without written permission from the editor and author of the article. Those wishing to have articles, photographs, etc. returned must include a SASE with proper postage. All articles published are copyrighted!

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Editors page:



My favorite season of the year is just around the corner, Summer! I love the warm weather and am planning a number of very interesting outings this year. In July, I am planning on visiting a number of haunted Civil War battlefields in Virginia and the south. Hopefully I will find some interesting stories to relate in a future edition of Ghost Trackers Newsletter.

Thanks to: Tom Perrott for his generous donations of SPR

Journals, PSI Researcher magazines and "Haunted Sussex Today," Suzy Driver for her booklet "Is Someone At 210 Main?", Ed Okonowicz for his latest book "Presence In The Parlor," Nannette Morrison for "Echoes Of Valor" and "A Thundering Silence," Troy Taylor for the first issue of his new magazine "Ghosts Of The Prairie" and Richard Mock and Linda Haluska for newspaper clippings and Melissa Griffith for the unusual photographs she sent in for analysis.

A big thank you goes out to Mark Gordon for the help in securing a new home for our bi-monthly meetings and presentations. For further information concerning the next meeting dates and location please call the GRS hotline at 708-425-5163. I am also planning on having mini-meetings at my home for GRS members only starting either in late May or early June. This will give those GRS members who cannot make the other meetings a chance to meet and talk with the other GRS members on a variety of subjects. Refreshments will be served at the mini-meetings. These min-meetings will be on an irregular basis on Saturday afternoons

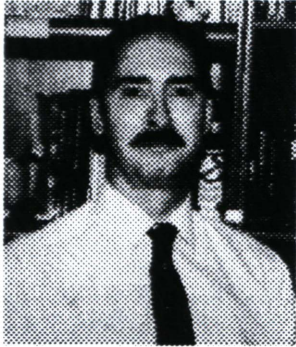
around 1pm. I will be utilizing these mini-meetings to preview new technologies in instrumentation, discuss private haunted house investigations and Special Investigations and generally talk about items that I would prefer not to discuss in an open forum at our public meeting/presentations. This could also include private GRS business. Again by calling the GRS hotline number, you will find out when the next mini-meeting is scheduled.

I am in the process of upgrading my computer system again and am trying a variety of new looks for the newsletter. I would appreciate any input as to what you like or dislike about this current design. I hope the dual columns will make for more easier reading. I will be purchasing a HP Color Printer Model 870Cse in the near future and color quick camera for those much awaited photo ID's. During one of the mini-meetings I will be able to take a computer picture of you, insert it into the current ID format and print out your ID while you wait. I want to make these look as professional as possible.

I am also in the process of updating and upgrading all Special Interest Directories with a much nicer format and much more information. The older directories will soon go on clearance sale as I make room for the new directories which should be out around Halloween.

I am also producing a new Ghost Photography video which should also be out around Halloween. This will replace the current Evidence For Spirit Photography video that I am currently selling. I will soon begin work on *Ghosts Across America* video series which will be based on my travels around the country and abroad. Watch for its debut.

Ghost Research Society



This issue is dedicated to Chet Prusinski, owner of Chet's Melody Lounge directly across the street from Resurrection Cemetery in Justice, Illinois. He was the owner of the tavern for 32 years and he will be buried at, of course, Resurrection Cemetery. The same cemetery that can be seen from the tavern. Chet was 66.

Congratulations go out to Kathy Lund who is now the Louisiana State Coordinator for the GRS. Kathy is highly qualified for the position and operates *Haunted History Tours* in New Orleans. Three tours are available including: Voodoo/Cemetery Tour, Haunted History Tour and Vampire Tour. While in the New Orleans area, you must check it out. I know I will. Call: 504-897-2030 and tell them you saw them in Ghost Trackers Newsletter. New Patron member is Debbie Ceasario and new Sustaining Member is Daniel McKnight. Since the last issue we have added nine new member and received renewals from seven veteran members. Thanks!

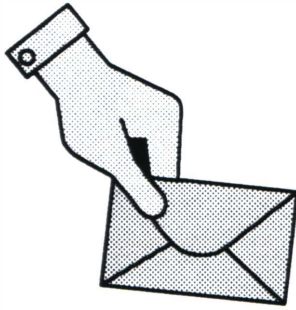
Attention Ghostbusters!! The International Ghost Hunters Society is hosting its first **Ghost Conference** August 9-10, 1997 at the haunted Lincoln Theater in Decatur, Illinois. Hosted by Dave Oester and Sharon Gill of the International Ghost Hunters Society and Troy Taylor of the Ghost Research Society

of Central Illinois. Meet ghost hunters from all over the world! Learn about ghost hunting and the nature of spirits from experienced researchers in the field. Participate in hands-on workshops about ghost hunting and spirit photography in haunted locations. See the latest tools and methods used by ghost hunters. Attend seminars on subjects like: starting your own local ghost club; ghost photography; ghost detectors; witness interviews; dimensional hauntings and much more! Conference prices: \$50 if paid before June 30, 1997/\$60 if paid after July 1, 1997. For more information write to: Whitcchapel Productions, Rt. 51, North Box 11, Forsyth, IL. 62535 or call toll-free 1-888-GHOSTLY. All registrations will receive an information packet on hotels, restaurants and car rentals by mail prior to the event. Early registration will receive a free guidebook to "Haunted Decatur".

The newsletter of the Quarter is *Ghosts Of The Prairie Magazine*, Issue No. One, Spring 1997. An excellent publication edited by Troy Taylor author of *Haunted Decatur*! Issue number one contains articles on Bachelor's Grove Cemetery, The Haunted Midwest, A Haunted Travel Guide, Phantom Black Panthers and much more. \$15 for four issues. Call 1-888-GHOSTLY to subscribe or write to above address.

If you have an e-mail address, please return the enclosed form. Those with an e-mail address will receive periodic updates via the Internet. You also have the option of receiving your newsletters and back issues thru the Internet as well.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



I have a question or two for you as a fellow ghost hunter. Maybe your readers might have a comment or two.

1) There seems to be a link between ghosts, haunted

houses and sightings of UFOs. There are electromagnetic fields linked to both. Ghosts and UFOs both vanish. ET's have been seen to walk through walls. Could these be? : a) inter dimensional shifts or b) warps in the fabric of time?

Ed: I believe that ghosts are inter dimensional and can sometimes cross into our plane of existence. That's why perhaps they are never seen all the time in so-called 'haunted houses'. The warps in time is an interesting theory that I have heard offered a number of times by different researchers. I have noticed one interesting point. Why ghosts are more common in buildings with thick walls of natural materials; stone, wood, adobe seem to hold energy - hence haunting ghosts. What is your take on this? Have you found more ghosts in places with thick walls?

Ed: I truly haven't noticed a connection between ghosts and thick walls or natural substances. I guess additional research on this might prove to be extremely interesting! Could ghosts of non-living things - ships, trains, cars, buildings, houses and statues, etc. be memories from ghosts impressed into the minds of the witnesses? These memories would be manifest in people with psychic ability. Richard Senate, Ventura, CA.

Ed: Hard question to answer. It could simply be place memories or residual haunting effect created by a traumatic event

in someone's death scenario. I have often noted inanimate objects that appear such as houses and cars especially.

Dear Dale,

Thank you for your very favorable review of *Haunted Asheville* in the latest (Vol. 16, No.1) edition of your newsletter. I am delighted you found the book enjoyable reading.

In response to your confusion over the infrared photograph, I should tell you that a visibly opaque filter *was* indeed used. Mark-Ellis Bennett made the infrared/ultraviolet photographs for my research. He used one of two filters: for infrared, a visually opaque Hoya RM90 (used for the photograph in question), and for ultraviolet (and slightly infrared) a Hoya U360 (which has a similar light curve as the Wratten 18A). I'll be certain to keep you updated on any future research in which you may have interest. Thanks again for your support. Your comments will prove valuable.

Joshua P. Warren *author of Haunted Asheville.*

Ed: Thanks for clarifying that for me! The text was just a bit confusing and I wanted to sure that I was reading it correctly. Thanks and the best of luck to you!

Was interested to read about your experience looking for the Brown Mountain Lights. I'm originally from McDowell County NC, bordering the Burke County/Hickory Nut Gorge area (home of Brown Mountain). I visited family down there just this December, and spent some time looking for the lights at Clingman's Dome in the Pisgah National Forest (the best vantage point for seeing the lights), but didn't get to see anything. As sightings are more common in the summer, I

plan to return in summer of 1998 and hopefully get some photos of the phenomenon. My mother and grandmother have seen the mountain when it's lit up like the NYC skyline. You just have to be there at the right time.

While in Asheville (just up the road from Marion), I picked up a copy of Joshua Warren's *Haunted Asheville*, and another of his recent books, *Plausible Ghosts*, an excellent book on the theories and science behind hauntings (\$9.95, Shadowbox Publications, PO Box 16801, Asheville, NC. 28816). While I don't agree with all his ideas (for example, he completely discounts the concept of place memory/residue hauntings, which I think are more common than actual "ghost" hauntings), but I think he has a generally good grasp on the subject matter. If you can't get a review copy from Mr. Warren, let me know and I'll have one of my friends in Asheville pick up a copy and send it to you. Hopefully I'll get a chance to meet Mr. Warren and trade tales and experiences with him next time I head down south.

By the way, the newsletter looks much improved. Keep up the good work!

Randy Liebeck, NJ State Coordinator.
PO Box 756, Totowa, NJ. 07511-0756

Ed: I would love to travel again to Brown Mountain and try to record the lights and perhaps maybe I could join you next summer. I would also be interested in a review copy of Plausible Ghosts if Mr. Warren is listening (or reading) but if you wish to send me a copy, I would greatly appreciate it!

Hey, the new issue of the newsletter is great. You must have gotten that computer you were looking for, good pictures!
Question. Ever work for a person and while

you do the work for them, they're ok, but next day, they're dead? In the hospital where I work, a lady in Room 440, I rebuilt the air conditioner in her room, talked to her and got her some cool air. The next day, nurses said she "went down real fast."

Anyway, how do I get a story published in the next newsletter? Does it have to meet a standard or just be in line?

Richard Mock of Leesburg, Georgia

Ed: Can't say I have worked with someone only to have them die the next day and I guess I wouldn't want that to be the case. If you are interested in submitting a story for publication, write for Writer's Guidelines and I'll be happy to send the guidelines to you posthaste.

I don't know if you are aware that the owner of Chet's Melody Lounge in Justice, Illinois passed away on February 27th (1997), Thursday. He is the lounge owner that claimed "Resurrection Mary" came to his bar and drank a "Res Mary" cocktail consisting of vodka and tomato juice. Anyway, I thought that you may want to put this in your June newsletter. I wanted to attend the wake since it is close by to where I live, however circumstances prevented me from doing so. My only question is now that Chester Prusinski is at Resurrection Cemetery, will Resurrection Mary and Chester meet at night for a stroll down Archer Avenue or a cocktail at Chet's? Can't help but wonder?....

P.S. I would definitely check out if there is any 'psychic' activity on Archer in months to come.

Linda Haluska of Willow Springs, Illinois

Ed: Well you just never know. Since Chet and the lounge was so much a part of the Resurrection Mary legend, perhaps they might just meet one day. "Strange things

happen in this world..” (Lyrics from a song entitled “Laurie” by Dicki Lee.

I recently wrote to you concerning a strange event which happened to me in the early morning of October 18, 1996, in which it felt as though I were being held down in bed. I would like to report that the event has occurred to me again very recently. This time, the pinning-down sensation was accompanied by a loud whirring sound which gradually subsided as, whatever it was, released me. I still do not know what to make of these occurrences. Strange things seem to happen from time to time around my home, but I can't seem to come up with a reason for it. The house was built in 1984, and we are the only family whose lived here. We aren't near any power poles (which I've heard can cause strange occurrences), so I just don't know what to make of it.

I work in a small cabinetry shop with two other co-workers, and one day we talked about weird things that have happened to us. I was very surprised to find out that, without hesitation or fear of being ridiculed, both of them said that the same pinning-down sensation has happened to them, too! One guy said that the sensation has happened to him many times, and he's absolutely convinced that his house is haunted. He said that things often fall off shelves and fly across the room without warning, and that footsteps are heard throughout the house. The other guy (who's a very religious fellow), said that he's experienced the holding-down sensation many times, and he believes it's some sort of demon trying to possess you. I don't know what to think about it, but it sure is unpleasant!

In other local news, my brother moved into his girlfriend's parent's haunted house around a month ago. He says that many

things have happened since he moved in. Just for kicks, he left a voice-activated micro cassette recorder on the table before he left one day (when no one was home), and when he played it back, the recorder had turned on and off numerous times, but he couldn't really hear anything unusual. However, on a camcorder tape he was recording, you can hear what sounds like a male voice say something like “look around” or “underground” while he was showing the garage where the previous owner killed himself. It's very freaky! He also hears loud crashes late at night, but finds nothing disturbed, as well as many nasty odors in unusual places. I don't know why he wants to live there!

Christopher Roberts of Billings, Montana
Ed: It does sound a little freaky however I would caution you about accepting everything at face value. It seems that all of these encounters have happened at night and we all know how the subconscious mind can play tricks on you. If however, you truly believe that you were awake, I would check into the past history of the area in question to see if anything extraordinary happened there. The spirit voices or EVP does sound interesting and I would be interested in examining that piece of evidence.



The Garage: A Haunting

By: Mark H. Gordon

On my maternal grandmother's side of the family, mild psychic ability appeared to run in the family. Her own psychic ability seemed to rest on premonitions of things that would occur. Although her premonitions weren't of the actual events, they were still enough to prepare her for heartbreaking news. For example, one night when my grandfather was at work, and my mother, then two year's old, was the base of the lamp by which she was reading a book. The apparition frightened her, and once my grandmother got home, he had her touch the lamp to put her mind at ease, but then she knew something was going to happen to a member of the family. The apparitions continued regularly for about two weeks, at which time, her youngest sister, then 21, died suddenly.

My grandmother was very upset by this, as her youngest sister who had just passed away, had frequently confided to her a few times that their grandmother, who had just passed away two months prior, was calling to her--or at least that was the feeling she had--she said she would feel a presence by her, behind her right shoulder.

Further, my great-grandfather claimed that after my great-grandmother had died, she was calling to him from the front porch and knocking at the front window. He even noticed that he was sure it was she who bounced a ball from the second floor of the house, just to show her continued presence in the house. He died three months after she did. His brother-in-law who continued to live with him in the house after his sister died, didn't like the feeling in the house after his sister and brother-in-law passed away. He

immediately moved in with my grandparents and mother.

Just as interesting, years before, a distant aunt on my great-grandfather's side, had told the family the Bible predicted many things for her. She often told the family that men would fly, and a decade or two later, we had the airplane. There were many things she had predicted, but being a devout Catholic, she only shared these observations with close family members.

I hope this gives a simple introduction to this story.

For about a 12-year period, beginning in 1974, our garage became the center of several unexplained phenomena. Not before then, nor after the 12-year period had anything out of the ordinary occurred in our garage. My mother, has lived in the house for more than 33 years.

Some people might say strange things happened in the house a couple times, but never like what happened in the garage. To this end, the only strange things which happened in the house that could be recollected were two events--and both with their similarities. Also, both took place during the first 10 years they lived in the house. On one occasion, the electric kitchen clock began to spin backwards in time. About a month later, my grandfather learned his brother had died at the moment the clock had gone crazy. The second occasion, the back doorbell, began to ring, and upon checking, no one was there. Again, one month later, he heard another brother has passed away. And again, at the same time the door bell acted strangely.

When my mother married my father in 1968, he moved into my grandparent's house, and built a room in the south-west corner of the garage. The garage is 20' x 22', and the little room he built was all of 6' x 10' in size. The room served as his office, study, darkroom, and where he spent much time by himself.

At one point in time, my grandmother requested we bring home holy water from church. She then kept the bottle in her room at all times. This request, she made, was without reason, and she never explained why at the time. As a young girl, my mother recalled her keeping all sorts of things around the house for good luck, or so the ethnic Czech tales go.

During the summer of 1974, ending my kindergarten year of school, I entered the garage to get some outdoor toys as I usually did, while the rest of the family was unloading groceries out of the car. I entered the garage, and there, under a shelf, was a small man dressed in green. His face was hideous and his shriveled hand beckoned to me to come closer. He seemed to disappear into the concrete floor, as I ran out to my mother.

I told everyone, and my mother took me back into the garage, giving me a stick to hit the floor where I had seen the little man. I never saw him again, although this began some odd events.

My father, who my mother would divorce in about two years, told her he was performing occult rituals in the garage, and was practicing spells to summon the devil. My sighting of the "little man", as he had then come to be called, scared my father who either from ignorance or stupidity was shocked it happened. My grandmother quickly sprinkled holy water around hers and my grandfather's bedroom.

That same summer, my paternal grandmother came to visit, and my father took home movies of her walking around the yard and house. For some unknown reason, she never appeared on any of the three rolls of 8mm film. People stood around her, and they appeared--she didn't. The TV show, *Bewitched*, was in rerun syndication, and the story about how witches don't appear on film or TV became the family joke. The thing is, she really was a good woman, and brought up seven children without the aid of a husband. This occurrence baffled the whole family.

Shortly thereafter, my mother divorced my father. After he left, my grandmother went into the garage, and used holy water to bless it. It was then she shared her feelings about the garage. She said she had a funny feeling about it, and got a chill each time she looked out her bedroom window and looked at it.

About a month or so after, while my grandmother was looking out the window, she saw a light in the garage window. She had my mother call the police, and after a complete inspection, they found nothing--no forced entry, nothing touched, or taken. The odd thing was, we had no electricity in the garage, and any light in there would have had to have come from a flashlight. We thought at first, either my father had broken in and tried to take something, or some area teenagers were up to no good. Just to make sure, my grandmother had the locks changed. Also, the overhead door was somewhat broken at the time--the springs weren't set correctly, and the heavy wood door was hard to lift--and since we had no car at the time, didn't bother to have it adjusted. My grandmother suggested placing bolts in the tracks of the overhead door to prevent people from even lifting it.

We then knew there was really no way to get there, except to break a window.

About three months or so after, most of us saw lights in there one night--my grandmother, mother, sister and me. My grandfather had failing sight at the time. Again the police were called, and again they found nothing wrong.

For the next couple of years, we would be plagued by things moving around. At first, my mother thought it was my sister and I doing it, but our things were also being moved around as well, and on days when we didn't even go into the garage. My grandmother planned a couple tests, in which we would place things in a certain place, and wait to see if it would get moved. We really thought it was my father breaking in and doing it. He had the tools and the know how to do it. In each case, within a week the items would be moved--usually from one side of the garage to the other or from one shelf to another.

At this point, my mother decided to dismantle the "little room". My mother, sister and I began to remove the shelves first, then the door, then one wall at a time, and then the ceiling while two walls held it up. We had a neighbor take the wood floor for his own use, and gave all the wood, shelves and fittings with it. The entire job took a few days. At the same time, my mother got rid of some things my father had bought and left. Once it was all over, all hell broke loose.

Our gas lawn mower was completely taken apart. The spring compartment had been opened and the spring sprung on the floor next to it. Also, our Christmas items had been moved about the garage. No one could have gotten in. This time, my mother took holy water out to the garage and splashed it around. Soon after, more things

were moved around. The point to note is that none of the dust on these items was ever touched.

At different times, we would see the lights go on and off in a garage not equipped with electricity. We didn't call the police anymore.

Then one day, our parish priest came to visit my grandparents, as they were homebound. My grandmother asked him to bless the house and garage. Then we had peace for a short while. Maybe peace isn't a good word, but at least we didn't have the trouble of going over the garage to put things back to where they were.

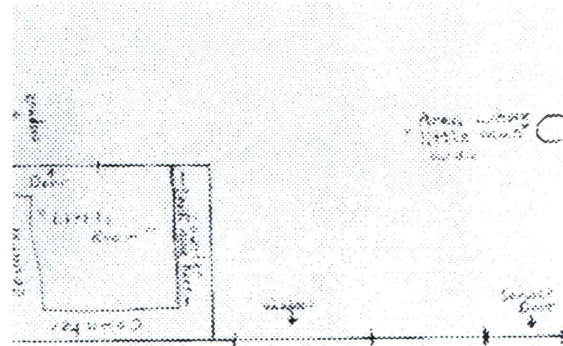
We did continue to monitor things to make sure just the same.

Then, one evening, my grandmother, mother and I were talking in my grandmother's bedroom and my sister was in her's, we heard a loud animal like roar come from our yard. Both bedroom windows looked into the yard, and the loud animal roar even made our dog, a Labrador retriever go to the window and bark. Upon checking, there was nothing there and no evidence of any animal. From that day on, we never had any other problem in the garage.

One final note, a long time friend of the family, we later found out, passed away at the same time the loud roar was heard. If it had something to do with her death (about 15 miles away), or the 12 years of odd goings on in our garage, we don't know. All we know is that nothing has moved around since, and nothing has been taken apart either.

Mark H. Gordon holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Roman Catholic Theology, Church History, Biblical Studies and Elementary Education. He is a licensed

teacher with an Illinois endorsement in upper-grade and Junior High School reading and language arts. He has taught Religion, Mathematics, and Computer Science in the Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic School System, along with holding such positions as Religion Coordinator, Assistant to the Principal, School Librarian, School Publisher, etc. He is currently a Reference Librarian for a public library. Mark has also had articles on local history published in local newspapers.



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The Obscure Ghosts of Old Town San Diego

By John J. Lamb

G.R.S. Area Research Director, California



Nearly everybody knows about San Diego's Whaley House; its ghosts are nationally famous. Yet in researching a book on Southern

California ghost phenomena, I learned that at least six other Old Town San Diego sites are also home to apparent supernatural events; all are only a few minutes' walk from the Whaley House. Sometimes I wonder if these more obscure revenant spirits are jealous of the attention paid to the renowned Whaley House phantoms. If so, perhaps this small article will alleviate that resentment.

The collection of haunted places is about two blocks north of the Whaley House, in Old Town State Park. This is an enclave of restored and replica buildings from the 1820's to the 1860's. In my inquiries, I spoke with State Park employees, a park police officer, park volunteers and local residents. The information provided by these helpful folks led to this brief description of Old Town Haunted sites. It was necessary, however, to compress the data into a brief and workable format.

The haunted sites in Old Town include:

The Robinson-Rose House: This is a replica building of the original, which was constructed in 1855. It also serves as the State Park headquarters. Occurring within the building are low-grade poltergeist events, sightings of misty figures, and the sounds of disembodied footfalls. One park employee reported that the elevator sometimes

operates of its own volition. Another claimed her hair was gently pulled by an invisible entity.

The Machado-Stewart Adobe:

Originally built in about 1845, the building was reconstructed, utilizing many of the original adobe bricks. The phenomenon consists of the disturbance of bedclothes while the museum building is closed and locked. Employees routinely make the bed at closing time, only to discover the blanket moved as if someone had slept in the bed. The accounts are compelling, because the locked and shuttered building also have a burglar alarm. Clearly, the episodes are not of mundane origin.

El Fandango Restaurant:

This restaurant is "ghost friendly" as made evident by the framed newspaper account of the original sighting of the specter. The ghost is an archetypal White Lady who is customarily seen seated at a corner table. However, it must be said that most stories of the Lady remain painfully anecdotal. Moreover, the building is of fairly recent construction, built atop the site of the old Machado adobe. When visiting the restaurant, ask for the haunted table. If the staff considers the interest in ghosts as proof of delusion, they hide it well.

Seeley Stable:

The stable houses a Stagecoach Museum and other interesting artifacts. The phenomena are fairly tame: footfalls are heard on the wooden floors when the building is empty. Sadly, the episodes might excite more attention if not for the other nearby haunted buildings.

La Casa De Estudillo:

Constructed in 1824, this restored adobe house was the

home of the original alcalde, or mayor, of San Diego. Within the structure, park employees and visitors have experienced the following assortment or phenomena: full figure apparitions; cold spots; misty human shapes in the Blue Room; shadows flowing along walls; low-grade poltergeist events; and the sound of prayers being chanted. The ghost may be Father Antonio Ubach, a longtime resident of the house. Two park employees told me they hate working in the place and at least one considered quitting her job after seeing a ghost glide from the Chapel. By all accounts, this place could give the Whaley House spooks a solid run for their money.

Washington Square/The Plaza: The center of Old Town is a grassy plaza with huge eucalyptus trees and gnarled cork oaks. Secondhand reports tell of a spectral priest seen gliding along San Diego Avenue during the hours before dawn. Since the sightings occur near La Casa de Estudillo, this priest might be a secondary manifestation of Father Ubach.

So if you visit San Diego in search of paranormal phenomena, don't limit your inquiries to the Whaley House. As you can see, the nearby State Park is well worth your attention. But don't expect immediate answers to your questions. Not all the park employees were agreeable to discussing the subject and there were some inference such conversation wasn't appreciated by park supervisors. In fact, it wasn't until my sixth visit that I was successful in collecting reports from the lesser know locations.


One other note: The most available local book on regional hauntings is Haunted San Diego, by Gail White, and is sold in nearly all the Old Town shops. The slim volume contains stories on the Whaley House and La Casa de Estudillo. It's a fun

book but definitely intended for the lay audience.

(A review of Haunted San Diego appears later in this issue.)

Old Town San Diego is located north of downtown and close to Mission Bay. The best route is to take Interstate 5 and get off at the Old Town Avenue exit. From there, follow the signs.

Submitted by: John Lamb, California Area Research Director.



A magazine for the New Age of
Spiritual Enlightenment
An endeavor to Strengthen and connect
the Webs of communication within the
Pagan Community
Articles, recipes, book & music
reviews, potions, readers forum,
rituals, ads, connections, puzzles,
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The Musician's Ghost

By: Richard Senate

I was told this story many years ago. The young man who gave me the tale asked me to keep it private. He has moved on now and few recall the events that took place in the haunted cottage in Ojai, that summer two decades ago, so I feel confident in bringing the account before the public. Perhaps the little cottage is still haunted and the publication of this story may even answer a few questions.

Years ago a young man rented a cottage. He was a musician and found the isolation ideal to practice his music. The principle reason he took the place was because it contained a large grand piano he could use in his music studies. After all of the paper work was completed, the landlady informed him, quite in passing, that the small cottage was rumored to be haunted!

The young man didn't believe in ghosts and told the woman such stories didn't bother him at all. He believed the isolated nature of the cottage and all of the oak trees that surrounded the place could make one seem uneasy and imagine all kinds of things that were not really there.

As he moved in, he later admitted to his friends, he did feel like he was being watched by unseen eyes. That warm summer night, he tossed and turned on the unfamiliar bed with only the constant sounds of the crickets to disturb the stillness of the night. Then he heard it. The single musical note that echoed in the night. The crickets had stopped their night song. It was the sound of a single note on the piano. From the bed the young man could see the black piano and in the light of the full moon, which streamed in the windows, he could clearly see there was no one there.

The next night his sleep, even enhanced by two glasses of red wine, was disturbed by the sound of footsteps in the cottage. This time he snapped on the lights and explored and convinced himself the sound must have been squirrels, or some other night animal, walking on the roof. He spent the next two days with his parents before returning, inspired. He practiced for hours on the piano before fixing himself a simple meal, watching a little TV and going to bed.

He woke up out of a sound sleep, fully awake. He looked across the room and saw a bizarre apparition. It was floating near the piano and glowed with a surging radiance. It was the upper half of a man, almost like a statuary bust, moving slowly toward him. He could see the head turn and the eyes glance toward him. He described it as having long hair, a small beard and wire-rimmed glasses. He didn't feel frightened by the strange figure and somehow felt that it meant him no harm. He could see it was an elderly man, perhaps in the 70's or 80's, and seemed kindly. As he watched, the image slowly faded away.

That week he began to ask questions about the ghost, first from his landlady, then from his neighbors and Ojai friends. He discovered the previous tenant was an elderly pianist, who spent some of the happiest moments of his retirement playing the piano, in that very cottage. From that time on the young man didn't see the ghostly figure again, but he did hear the piano sound a few notes once in awhile and on occasion heard the footsteps, slowly pacing the cottage, but he was never frightened knowing that the love of music was a

supernatural bond between the two of them.

Perhaps the small isolated building is still haunted, and draws to it those who have a deep love of classical music. Perhaps the piano still plays itself and the musician's odd ghost wanders the night. Why the phantom

returned in the form of a bust is unknown, but perhaps, the answer will someday be known. If you know of this ghost please communicate with me through this newsletter.

Occasional Spooking

By Rev. Speaker Gerald A. Polley

One of the questions that often crops up when people learn I have psychic abilities is "Why is it the appearances of ghosts are often sporadic? There will be sudden outbursts of activity, then long periods of silence, followed by another period of activity."

The answer to the question can be two fold. Firstly, ghosts are dependent on the availability of psychokinetic energy to make themselves manifest. They can be in an area all the time but be unable to reveal

strong power sources.

Another factor that plays a great importance in hauntings is the anniversary of the incident that has bound the individual to Earth. Around this period there is often a sudden increase in phenomena, which tends to fall away shortly after the anniversary date has passed.

These are the most common reasons why ghost phenomena is sometimes quite erratic.

themselves because of a lack of energy. But then, when a suitable charge builds up, use it to manifest phenomena for a while until it fades away and they go into a dormant period.

Oftentimes when people move into a house that has not been occupied for some time, they will bring with them a charge of psychokinetic energy that will cause a flurry of activity. This is especially true if there are teenagers in the family who tend to be very

There are some ghosts, however, have such an abundant supply of psychokinetic energy that they can cause phenomena on almost a nightly basis. Such hauntings usually occur in well visited historical sites, or, places of worship where those entering bring a steady supply of energy.

Submitted by: Rev. Speaker Gerald A. Polley, PO Box 4301, Portland, ME. 04101.



The Ghost In The Workshop

By: Barbara Huyser



A few years ago, I accepted a position as the administrator for a vocational training program for people with disabilities located in a suburb of Chicago. The program is what is typically described as a sheltered

workshop, providing factory work and vocational training for adults with mental retardation. There was a factory and warehouse area where the people served by the program worked and received their training. There were offices towards the front of the building where the social workers, administrators, and other staff work.

When I started, I was given a large office towards the front of the building. From day one, I felt very uncomfortable in that office. I didn't like being in there alone. I definitely didn't like being in there with the door shut, even if other people were in there with me. This was very strange to me, but I thought maybe I was just having a reaction to the office itself (it was rather ugly and was scheduled for a complete remodeling). Or perhaps it was just nerves from starting a new job after having been on my last job for more than 15 years. It was after I had a conversation with one of my staff about a week and a half after I started that I found that my feelings of discomfort might have a more ominous meaning than just adjusting to a change. The other employee and I started

talking about the people who had held my current job in the past and he mentioned that one of them had committed suicide 18 months before I started. I was even more alarmed to hear that he killed himself by hanging himself from an access ladder to the roof out in the factory. I suspected "Steve" as we'll call him, might very well be the cause of the problem.

My interest in ghosts goes back to my childhood when ghost stories were my favorite form of reading. I had a few encounters with ghosts in my late teens and early twenties. My maternal grandmother, with whom I was very close, died of cancer when I was sixteen. She knew when she was dying that it would be very hard for me to let her go, so she stayed around as a comforting presence for almost a year. There was one occasion when, while stopped at a four-way intersection on my way to a college class, I heard her voice saying "Don't go!". I froze and didn't pull my car into the intersection, even though it was my turn and there was a car behind me. Thanks to Gramma's warning, I didn't pull out and so avoided being broadsided by the car that came flying through the intersection at a high rate of speed, running the stop sign. Later on, while I was in graduate school, about two years after his death, my favorite uncle put in an appearance in a very unusual dream to say goodbye and let me know that he was okay and was happy about my going on for more education.

While working on my Master's Degree in psychology, I met a number of other graduate students in the psychology

department who had similar interests in ghosts. Working with a psychology professor from McKendree College in Lebanon, Illinois, we conducted a number of investigations of places in the area that were reported to be haunted (a whole other story). When I finished graduate school in 1979, I set aside my hobby in favor of pursuing my career. The interest in ghosts never really waned and in 1993 I read about Dale Kaczmarek and the Ghost Research Society in the Chicago Tribune. I joined shortly after and was involved in some investigations through the GRS.

After I found out about the suicide that took place in the building where I worked, it didn't take long for staff to start telling me about the weird things that happened there. Staff reported having feelings of discomfort in various parts of the building, like they were being watched. Occasionally, doors would open or close without apparent reason. Unexplained noises and the sound of footsteps have been heard in the factory. My boss talked about having problems with objects disappearing from her office and then reappearing a day or two later. People described things as happening most often out in the factory near the warehouse area, in my boss's office, or in my office. The location out in the factory made sense, since that was where Steve hung himself. Incidents in the boss's office made sense, because that had been Steve's office. But incidents in my office made no sense. Why would Steve attach himself to my office, which had never been his?

This made more sense when I had been in my new job about two months. I did a major cleaning out of the office and got rid of all kinds of useless papers and records going back to the seventies. It truly appeared that all of my predecessors were

hopeless pack rats. As I was going through a drawer in my desk that was just stuffed with obsolete files, I found a file that had no label on it, but had some very interesting contents. It had to have belonged to my late predecessor. It contained personal photographs, copies of Steve's performance reviews and various letters of commendation or corrective criticism, and a couple of envelopes. I opened one envelope and found a man's wedding ring inside. Speculation among staff was that the suicide was precipitated by Steve's wife leaving him a few days beforehand, combined with a very bad performance review at work. Most staff believed that he hung himself at work out of depression over his imminent divorce, plus wanting to punish his employer for giving him a bad performance review during a vulnerable time in his life. I chose not to open any more envelopes and turned the whole file over to my boss. Although I never found out what was in the rest of the file, I figured just my luck there would have been a suicide note that had not been discovered before.

The reason for the ghost's attachment to the office became a little clearer since I was obviously using my late predecessor's desk. What was just as amazing was that the person who filled in on my job for a year and a half never completely cleaned out the desk and found that file containing Steve's personal effects. My discomfort in that office never got any better, so at the first opportunity I changed to another office and turned the first office into a conference room. Given that there are only meetings that now go on in that room, other people have not had the same kind of problem that I did. It may be that as long as people don't use that room as an office, the living energy available for the ghost to draw

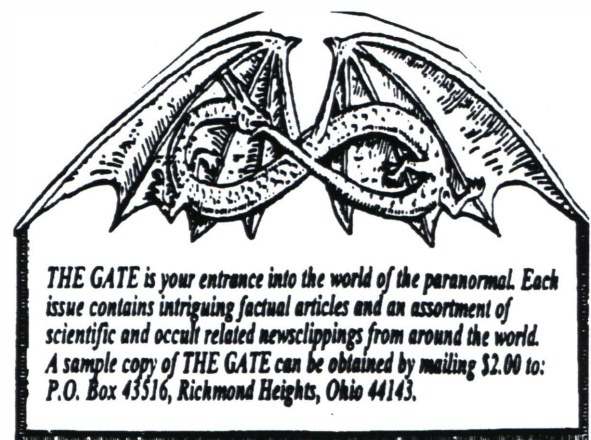
on may be reduced and diminish the problems there. After changing offices, I was able to be alone in my new office with a different desk, keep the door closed and feel perfectly comfortable.

Incidents have not stopped occurring in the building by any means. For about six weeks prior to the second anniversary of Steve's suicide, there was a dramatic increase in incidents in the building. On three occasions, twice when I was alone in the building and once when another staff member was present but in another part of the building, I heard footsteps out in the factory. It sounded like a man walking in hard soled shoes, taking about five or six paces. In each case, I looked and found no one in the building. As a loyal GRS member, I brought in my Gauss meter to take readings for anomalous electrical activity. After the third incident, I went to the area where I heard the footsteps and took readings. Normally, that area reads about 1.1 milligauss on the Gauss meter. I read 1.3 milligauss on that occasion. The reading went back down to 1.1 milligauss after fifteen minutes. Shortly after that incident, one of the staff reported seeing the shape of a man in the warehouse but when he called to him and walked over to see who it was, the shape disappeared.

Since the anniversary of Steve's suicide in February, incidents decreased. I did not hear anymore footsteps and my boss reported that objects were not disappearing and she did not have a feeling of being uncomfortable in her office. However, while some major remodeling was being done in that building, my boss and I were sitting in the reception area and the front door opened and closed by itself. We both said "Hi Steve" to the ghost and then went on with our conversation.

I no longer work for that workshop and have taken a job in Western Illinois. I keep in touch with some of the staff at that agency and they report that activity has once again diminished now that the February anniversary has passed. Perhaps when the next anniversary of Steve's suicide rolls around there will be an increase in the incidents. Or it may be that with his personal effects out of the building, plus converting the one office into a conference room, and a lot of remodeling in the building, Steve may feel that there is less reason to stick around. Either way, the staff was waiting to see what happens!

Submitted by: Barbara Huyser, GRS member from Monmouth, Illinois.



A DISTINGUISHED HAUNTING

(WARNER HOUSE, 10th & PENN, KANSAS City, MO.)

By: Maurice Schwalm

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The address of one of Kansas City's most distinguished mayors during his term in office was 1023 Pennsylvania. This was Major William Warner who was mayor in 1871. The literature of hauntings is replete with accounts of tragic hauntings. This is the case where a postmortem correction of a miscalculation is a more likely interpretation.

Major Warner's biography is a traditional American success story unmarred by any untoward incidents. He was a self-made man. His father died when he was eight. He went to work in a mine in southern Wisconsin and then got a job as a clerk and saved his money. He was able to put himself through law school by the age of 21 and was admitted to the Wisconsin Bar in 1860. During the Civil War, he joined the Wisconsin 33rd Volunteers as a lieutenant and emerged as a major after seeing action in numerous campaigns. After the war he became commander-in-chief of the veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic.

He moved to Kansas City in 1866 and formed a law partnership. Inevitably, he got into politics. Major Warner was city attorney in 1867 and became mayor in 1871 on the Republican ticket. It was during this

period that he built this three-story brick townhouse on Quality Hill, which was then the most prestigious area of the city.

As mayor, he concerned himself with many new local problems such as waterworks development, an Exposition and Fair building, and, less fortunately for him, stockyards development--the "cowtown" impetus.

Many other local issues bear the imprint of his thinking. He went on to a career in federal government. He became a US district attorney and then served in both houses of Congress. His career ended only when his health no longer permitted.

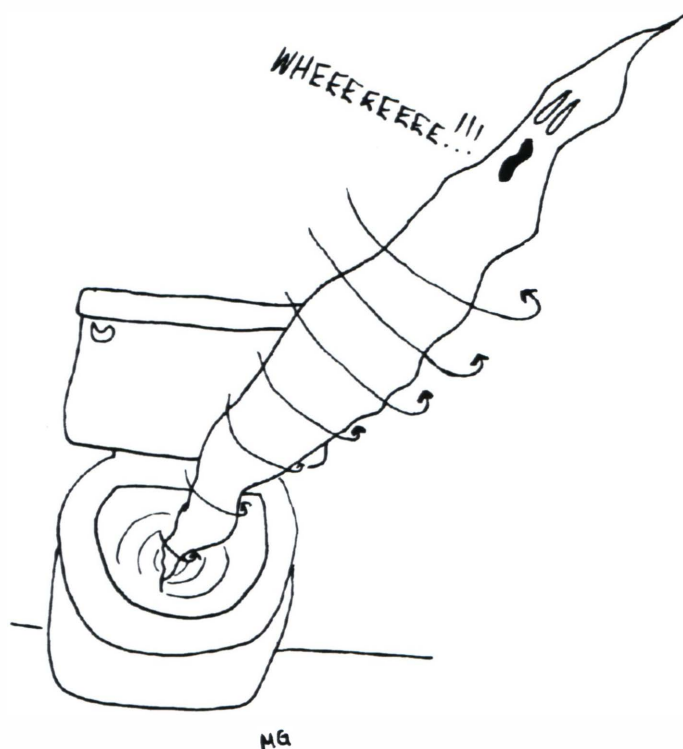
As prime promoter of the stockyards, he must have been shocked to find that he had undermined the livability of the mansion he had built on Quality Hill. The stockyard stench became worse and worse. He finally had to abandon his home and move to 3255 Main.

Quality Hill underwent a gradual decline due to stockyard stench. His home was empty for many years until the YWCA moved its executive quarters there in 1994. They immediately experienced problems. The workers found themselves locked out and had to smash the door. Muttering sounds are heard in the walls routinely. A man in Victorian attire with his wife and two children have been seen in the main hallway. Children are heard calling from the upper level. "Come here, come here." But they

are never there. The assistant director routinely feels extremely cold breezes around her twice a month. The maintenance man met a smiling man in uniform on the basement stairs when they were moving in. The man walked right on through him without an apology. Presumably, it was Warner in his attire as commander of the Grand Army of the Republic--a convenient ID! There is now a motion detector in place on the first floor. It is activated as often as the cold breezes.

The stockyards opened in 1871. The last auction was in September 1991. Warner was then free to correct his one miscalculation and "move back in" with the family as it was then. Only a Hereford bull statue remains on Quality Hill. The rest has been rebuilt or reused. The yards below are gone.

Submitted by: Maurice Schwalm, PO Box 3522, Kansas City, KS. 66103-0522.



A PARANORMAL MYSTERY SOLVED:

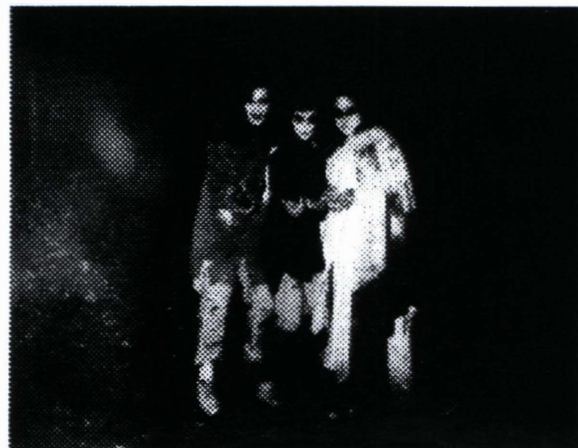
why Ghosts are
obsessed with
flushing toilets...

Spirit Photography Page



The above image was taken by Elaine Dohnal of Berwyn, Illinois at Woodlawn Cemetery on Wednesday, November 1, 1995 around 2:00 to 3:30 P.M. in the southeastern section of the graveyard. It was taken with Polaroid Captiva 95 film.

The image of a yellowish streak and blur are evident near the center of the picture which seems to radiate from the lower right to the middle center of the photograph. What is even more interesting, however, is an apparent face in the area directly between the tree in the center of the photograph and the whitish glob to the right of the tree. (See enlarged image).



The above photographs were taken in October 1992 and donated by Melissa Griffith of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, during a local YMCA event in "Wicked Woods". All of the photos were taken in the hour before they, (Melissa, Denise & Terri), had to "go on stage" in our cemetery scene - "so I was surprised when the 'fog' was only on two of the photos", says Melissa. "Later, Terri mentioned that it took a little imagination, but the first image looked to be an arm, leg and torso. We agreed...spooky!"

Opinion Polls

Richard Mock, Sr. of Leesburg, Georgia writes, "I would like to see a question and answer page so other GRS members could share ideas, questions, comments on paranormal activity."

Ed: "It's already in the works in the Letters To The Editor Page featured in this issue. The success of that page however will be determined by reader input."

Marie Kasperek of Chicago, Illinois comments, "Perhaps we could have a hotline for people that want to share some experiences of the supernatural as they happen and what it means when something happens. Maybe someone would have some explanations for people if they don't know."

Ken Welch of Colorado Springs, Colorado says, "A How-To article on techniques and equipment used in investigations and photos should be placed so they don't cut through text."

Ed: A number of How-To articles will be featured in future editions and I've already fixed the problem with the pictures cutting through text as you can see.

Cheryl Larkey of West Orange, New Jersey suggests, "I am a graphic designer by trade so my eye is more critical than the average eye. I hope some of these comments will be useful to you."

1) Most newsletters are two or three columns because it makes it easier for the reader.

2) Text should not jump across a photo or picture - it is confusing to the reader.

3) Some of the ads (pages 9, 11, Vol. 16, No. 1) look like they are 'floating'. There should be more of a grid, more structure - maybe some 'rules' (lines) if possible.

4) Some of the reproduction of photos or pictures is not that great. Especially (page 19, Vol. 16, No. 1) when you are referring to the photo particulars in the text of the article.

5) Book reviews - you may want to use graphic symbols in your rating scale. For example maybe have four little ghost figures at the top next to the book title instead of at the bottom where it gets lost.

Anyway I hope this is helpful. I love reading the newsletter and I look forward to the next one.

Ed: Your comments gave me a lot of good ideas, many of those have been and will be used in this and future issues. Thanks!

Virginia Rich of Elmwood Park, New Jersey writes, "Don't put pictures in the middle of articles, (pages 2, 8, 10, 14, 16 & 19). Rather use the (page 22) format, it makes for easier reading."

Troy Taylor of Decatur, Illinois comments, "More info about ghosts closer to home. I know what an excellent storyteller and researcher you are and would love to see more about Chicago ghosts. Frankly, that's why I would never write a book about Chicago, because no one could do it better than you!"

Karen Thompson Muchnick of Caldwell, New Jersey wants, "Lists of haunted places to visit."

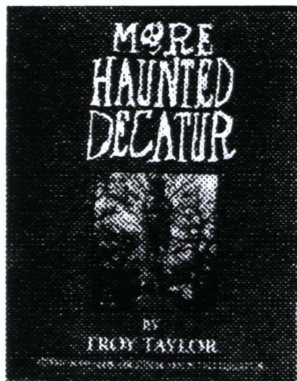
Ed: Try the newly revised National Register of Haunted Locations when it makes its debut sometime later this year!

Book Reviews

I have started a new rating system for all books, movies, videos and products. Effectively immediately the following rating system will apply, but different icons might be used in the future however.

●●●●●= Excellent, ●●●●= Very good,

●●= Good, ●=Fair, △= skip this one!



More Haunted Decatur by Troy Taylor
(Whitechapel Productions, PO Box 11, Forsyth, IL. 62535, 1996, 195 pages, softbound, \$12.95, ISBN: 0-9651497-0-6) ●●●●●

Another in a series of books written by downstate author and member, Troy Taylor of the Ghost Research Society of Central Illinois. Decatur sure does have its share of good ghost stories and Mr. Taylor brings them to the reader in an uncluttered and straightforward manner. A real plus in this book was the initial history of Decatur which truly set the scene for what was to come later in the book. While some may comment on whether this chapter should have been included in the book, I disagree that it was essential understanding Decatur and the tales included.

There are chapters about what's called locally *Devil's Chairs* which simply may be a sort of cemetery decoration which resembles a chair but locals have indicated over and over again it's connection with something much more diabolical, "The Devil"., more about the Avon Theater which is always welcome since GRS members and I

visited the site with the author last year and even a chapter on mystery birds, airships and UFOs. I especially enjoyed the chapter on *Haunted Springfield* since I have visited our state capital a few times in conjunction with the state fair but was unaware that it held a lot of ghost stories. Pictures and interviews abound in this large formatted volume. A great book which should be added to anyone's collection of ghost stories.

Reviewed by: Dale Kaczmarek

Is Someone At 210 Main? True Tales of a Trailer, Its Owner....and Someone! by Suzy Driver.

A short put-together booklet written by Ms. Driver about her encounters in a mobile home in Michigan and the terrors which plagued her for quite some time. This is not a published book but instead was written , as the author put it to, "get into the hands of a psychic or medium who can give her the answers she so desperately seeks."

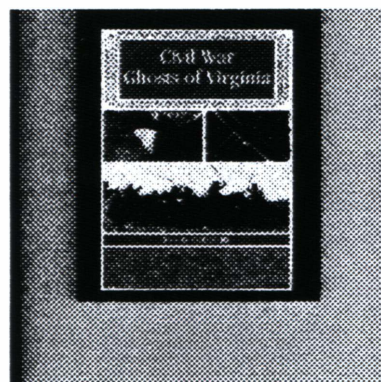
I found the booklet quite interesting and somewhat scary in some parts. It seems that not only were there numerous sightings in the trailer but also in a small ditch including that of a glowing object resembling a woman! Eventually the home became a sort of mini-Amityville Horror!

I believe that something quite traumatic or evil happened at the approximate location where the mobile home is now located and the events have been trapped in time and space and are simply replayed from time to time under certain conditions which we can only begin to guess at.

Professor Richard W. Brooks, associate professor and chairman of the department of Philosophy at Oakland

University is quoted as saying, "I count a total of at least 29 occurrences....These began when Tom was eight and continue at least into his freshman year of college. That suggests something upwards of 10 years during which these occurrences have been continuing. I do not consider them figments of your imagination and I am interested in learning more about them....and giving you whatever help and reassurance I can."

Reviewed by: Dale Kaczmarek



Civil War Ghosts Of Virginia by L.B. Taylor, Jr. (Progress Printing Co., Inc., 1995, softbound, 225 pages, \$11.95, ISBN: 0-9628271-2-

6) ●●●●●

Prolific author and member of the GRS, Mr. Taylor comes across with another winner! This book, which has included some stories from other books, is the definitive source book of Civil War hauntings in Virginia. More battles were fought on Virginia soil than anywhere else so it only seems logical that there would be a tendency of more paranormal activity here than in any other state in the Union. I can relate to a great many of the stories told here as I visited quite a few of the sites while visiting Virginia in search of my own ghost stories for a possible book. There are thirty-five different stories included in this book and I enjoyed every one of them.

Many of the sites and stories were familiar to me including: Kenmore house in

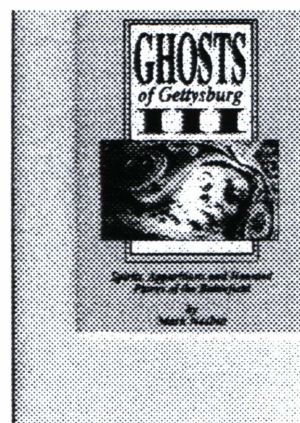
Fredericksburg, Harper's Ferry, Ball's Bluff which I visited on a ghost tour sponsored by INFO (International Fortean Organization), Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, Petersburg Battlefield, Sailor's Creek and the area around Appomattox Courthouse.

If you are even interested in ghost stories but are simply a Civil War buff, this book is for you. But if you take a fancy at ghosts, hauntings and eerie events, then definitely this book is for you!!



Reviewed by: Dale Kaczmarek

L.B. Taylor, Jr.



Ghosts Of Gettysburg III by Mark Nesbitt (Thomas Publications, PO Box 3031, Gettysburg, PA. 17325, 1995, softbound, 75 pages, \$4.95,

ISBN: 0-939631-90-3) ●●●●●

The third book by Mr. Nesbitt who is the local expert on the ghosts of Gettysburg and its environs. The book follows pretty much the video tape which came out later

but has some interesting stories such as "*The Premature Burial*" which details the events surrounding the cleaning up of the battlefield after Day One of the fighting. The soldiers wished to have the field of battle cleaned of war victims before the generals came by to review the day's events. The soldiers piled some of the bodies in a nearby barn not knowing that one of the soldiers wasn't dead and he was near the bottom of the pile. He laid there for almost four days with rotting, smelly dead corpses on top of him and when locals finally came to give those departed a proper burial, they found the half-alive survivor of the battle almost in a crazed state.

Of course, many years later, residents of a modern dwelling which was built directly over the old barn, experienced moans and groans from the basement where the bodies had been piled up like cordwood. Cups and glasses would shake, furniture would levitate and move about and a steady pounding emanated from the basement. An exorcism was finally performed and peace has since reigned.

That is only one of about a dozen or so chapters which make up Mr. Nesbitt's latest book on ghosts. It sure looks good next to the two previous volumes located on my bookshelf. Not one to miss!

Reviewed by: Dale Kaczmarek

Haunted San Diego: A Historic Guide to San Diego's Favorite Haunts by Gail White (Tecolote Publications; San Diego, CA. , 1992, softbound, 117 pages, \$9.95, ISBN: 0-938711-18-0 0

Although well-intentioned and skillfully written, Haunted San Diego is not intended as a serious inquiry into paranormal phenomena in San Diego County. Rather, the book focuses on the entertainment value

of ghosts. This isn't necessarily a bad thing, but I personally find this kind of work maddening, for it reveals little evidence of independent field investigation and relies heavily on folklore.

Included are the requisite (and sadly dated) stories of the Whaley House and the Hotel Del Coronado, which contain thinly disguised accounts from Hans Holzer's Ghosts of the Golden West and Antoinette May's Haunted Houses of California. (Both works are listed as sources.) Of greater interest, however, are the lesser known ghost reports, such as the White Lady of the Vallecitos Stage stop and the haunting of the Julian Hotel.

Still, the book makes no pretext to actually investigating the phenomena. For instance, in reporting on the White Lady of Harmony Grove, White recounts anonymous stories of a specter seen along the banks of the Escondido Creek. She does mention the presence of a Spiritualist settlement in the canyon, but overlooks the existence of a nearby esoteric Christian retreat center. For the past thirty years, both locations have been plagued by squads of beer-drinking teenagers in earnest pursuit of the ghost. Call me a mean-spirited skeptic, but half-drunk kids on a ghost-hunting expedition are not the sort of people I want to rely upon to validate a ghost report.

In the end, Haunted San Diego is a fun book, but of almost no value to the investigator. One final querulous note: White's accompanying illustrations are so crude they are almost painful to the eye. I can only hope she was deliberately going for a Neo-Dadaist look.

Recommendation: Buy it, if only for the fact it's a regional ghost book. But, for God's sake, ignore the pictures.

Reviewed by: John Lamb

Haunted Catalina: A History of the Island and Guide to Paranormal Activity by Robert J. Wlodarski and Anne Nathan Wlodarski (G-Host Publications, 5516 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas, CA. 91302-1080, (818)880-6338, 1996, softbound, 106 pages, \$12.95, ISBN: 0-9649088-1-6)

This is a difficult book to review. Haunted Catalina is, frankly, tedious. The Wlodarskis impart their ghost accounts in an overwrought and melodramatic style. This is most clearly manifested in the author's affection for consistently italicizing pivotal, spooky phrases. It's a shame, because this detracts from an otherwise decent piece of work.

The only minor flaw I could discover in their investigations is related to a White Lady at Two Harbors. The Wlodarskis obliquely allude to the local legend which

suggests the ghost was the wife of a Civil War officer who fell in love with a young soldier. The enraged husband discovered the pair and allegedly murdered them. The only problem with the story is that there is no proof whatsoever the killing happened. Moreover, the officer was Captain Benjamin West, who wasn't married at the time he was stationed on Santa Catalina Island. This doesn't mean the ghost isn't real, but the story of its origin is probably bogus.

Still, this is the rarest kind of ghost book: The bulk of material is fresh and previously unreported phenomena.

Recommendation: Haunted Catalina is probably the most comprehensive assemblage of ghost stories we're likely to obtain from the island and I suggest purchasing it.

Reviewed by: John Lamb

Another Dimension

A bimonthly magazine that is different! Full of True Stories and True Experiences
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